by some State Governments against the earlier decision of Government for phased abolition of the freight equalisation scheme of steel; and

(b) if not, by when Government propose to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It has been decided to refer the matter to the National Development Council. The date of its next meeting has not yet been fixed.

Sharing of Ganga waters between India and Bangladesh

1365. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has recently been a high level discussion on the sharing of Ganga waters between the President of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of India; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Permission to FERA Companies to produce High yielding varieties seeds

1366. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Lever and Sandoz India, the F.E.R.A. Companies have recently been allowed to produce HYV seeds in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) So far only M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited has been allowed to proddce hybrid/high yielding variety seeds.

(b) Production of hybrid/high yielding variety seeds require high technology and sophisticated infrastructural facilities to produce such seeds. In view of this production of such seeds has been included in the Appendix-I of the industrial Policy Statement of 2nd February, 1973 so that if multi-national and F.E.R.A. Companies also want to enter this field they may do so subject to certain conditions. This would supplement our efforts in making available hybrid/high yielding variety seeds to the farmers particularly of oilseeds and pulses.

Drinking water to problem villages

1367. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1986-87 more than 40,000 and in 1987-88, about 55,000 problem villages were to be provided with safe drinking water; and

(b) the state-wise progress made so far in this regard alongwith the expenditure incurred so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b) As against a target for coverage of 35930 villages in 1986-87, 48,350 villages were provided with safe drinking water facilities. In 1987-88 the target is 50,570 villages. Reported coverage upto June, 1987 is 9,774 villages. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement-I (*See* below). Statement-II is enclosed showing expenditure (provisional) incurred during 1986-87 and under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and upto June, 1987 during 1987-88, under State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) as reported by States/Union Territories. [*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 61]

Statement-I

*Number of problem villages covered with drinking water supply facilities**

State/UT	1986-87	1987-88 (upto June, 1987)
1. Andhra Pradesh	2644	1058
2. Assam	1608	194
3. Bihar	3239	61
4. Gujarat	1002	149
5. Haryana	480	90
6. Himachal Pradesh	500	102
7. Jammu & Kashmir	445	28
8. Karnataka	4244	434
9. Kerala	100	18
10. Madhya Pradesh	3730	1560
11. Maharashtra	6483	1783
12. Manipur	170	31
13. Meghalaya	450	6
14. Nagaland	38	0
15. Orissa	2936	477
16. Punjab	180	37
17. Rajasthan	1871	725
18. Sikkim	38	8
19. Tamil Nadu	3837	923
20. Tripura	690	16
21. Uttar Pradesh	11997	1697
22. West Bengal	1375	361
23. A.& N. Islands	39	5
24. Arunachal Pradesh	165	3
25. Goa	..	..
26. Mizoram	70	7
27. Pondicherry	19	1
TOTAL	48350	9774

*This includes partial coverage.